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THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 1977

Nobody's bosses

President Carter continues to say the things that ought to go without saying in America — but which we are glad to hear him say and will be glad to see him demonstrate throughout his term. This week, for example, he spoke to his fellow servants of the people in the Departments of Labor and Commerce and reminded them that that is just what they are: "We're nobody's bosses. We're servants of the people of this country — and we should never forget that." And he said: "Just because I'm President and you work for the federal government doesn't make us any better than the unemployed worker in Dallas Texas." Exactly.

If Mr. Carter keeps this up it will be clear that his cutting out of fanfares and limousines — all the "depomping" of the White House, as press secretary Jody Powell calls it — is something more than chromium deep. *Christian Science Monitor*

Carter's shakeup battle

In asking Congress for authority to reorganize the federal government, President Carter is moving quickly to fulfill a pledge that dominated his political campaign. It was his lively attack on inefficient government that appealed to many voters, and indeed there is evidence of continuing concern about his problem. The latest Gallup survey shows that more Americans than ever see "big government" and not big labor or big business as the main threat to the nation.

So Mr. Carter can proceed confidently in his efforts to streamline the government, knowing he has the public solidly behind him.

It will be no easy task, however. Not surprisingly, the President's first resistance to shaking up the bloated bureaucracy comes from Congress. Democratic representative Jack Brooks, chairman of the House Government Operations Committee, refuses to go along with Mr. Carter's plan, favoring instead a bill that would require an affirmative vote by the Congress on each specific item of reorganization. Under the Carter proposal the President could revamp the bureaucracy by executive orders, subject to congressional veto within 60 days.

We well understand the mood that has given rise to the concern of Mr. Brooks and others. After the heinous deeds of the Nixon White House there is justifiable reluctance to hand any president easy authority to revamp the government and shuffle the bureaucracy around. The recent unlawful manipulation of executive agencies is still painfully fresh in memory.

But by granting Mr. Carter the power he seeks the Congress is not abdicating control (it retains a veto) nor saying that the authority must extend indefinitely, for all time. Traditionally Congress has granted presidents essentially this same power and right. It is only the Watergate lapses that now make some legislators cautious, but it can surely be argued that Watergate was an extreme aberration not likely to surface soon again and should not now be exploited to stymie genuine and much-needed reform.

The point is that in practical terms the most expeditious way of getting substantial reorganization is to give the President power to accomplish this without setting up constant congressional roadblocks. The present patterns of the federal bureaucracy are now protected by powerful special interest in Congress. The later have their own committees paralleling government agencies and offices and are bound to fight to keep their authority. As John Gardner of Common Cause wrote recently, "They've spent a long time digging their tunnels into the public treasury and they don't want anyone blasting in the vicinity."

Although the President has hit an early snag in the House of Representatives, it cannot yet be called a confrontation. Mr. Carter has been working closely with congressional Democratic leaders, who appear sympathetic to giving him the authority he seeks, and efforts are under way to induce Mr. Brooks to back off. How much real influence and prestige the congressman from Texas has remains to be seen.

In any case, Mr. Carter is getting a foretaste of the difficulties of getting something through the Congress easily. Nor would we wish it otherwise. He will have to learn to deal patiently but persistently and vigorously with the Legislature, which has every right and indeed duty to question presidential actions. In this instance we think both branches of government would be profitably served by granting the President the tool he needs to try to update the bureaucracy. The task will be hard enough as it is. *Christian Science Monitor*



by Marty Vega

Trading Stamps Next

(This column deals with mature subject matter. Reader discretion is advised.)

Among the many emergency programs proposed to deal with the Great Energy Crisis is the idea of issuing "energy stamps" to low-income families, just like food

Puppy Creek

Philosopher

Dear editor:

One trouble with scientists is that if one of them thinks up an idea the rest of them rush headlong into the project without considering the effect it may have on the rest of us.

For example, a scientist has come up with the idea of putting a giant mirror into orbit, positioned so that it could reflect the sun's rays down to earth at night. Given enough money, he claims, a mirror could be built and launched via satellite that's big enough to shed ten times the light of a full moon, just about eradicating darkness.

The main advantage of this, he claims, would be to give farmers enough light to work at night.

Well I'll tell you, any scientist who's spending his time thinking up some way to get a farmer to work more, hasn't got enough work to do himself. On top of that, it'd ruin the potato crop, as you'd never know when it was time to plant in the dark of the moon, or is it the other way around.

Before Congress appropriates the money for this moon-lighting project I hope it'll write in a provision requiring the orbiting mirror to be equipped with venetian blinds so I can keep that blamed light off this farm out here.

Somebody is always coming up with a new and unsettling idea. For instance, Prime Minister Indira Gandhi over in India, where they can make an atomic bomb but haven't figured out how to make a farm tractor, made a long speech the other day before a crowd of over 100,000, and when the speech got boring and the crowd started to leave, she had her police make them stay and listen.

It's one thing to deny the people the right of free speech, but to deny them the right not to listen to a speech, that's a brand new twist. This reminds me of the argument some people make against televising session of the U.S. Congress from start to finish. They say it would damage the image of that body. I don't think it would hurt Congress, but it sure would kill television.

Yours faithfully,
 J.A.

stamps. But some government experts say something must be done for middle-income people, too.

Usually peachy sources have revealed that the executives of the major power companies have hit on a plan to give some relief to the middle-income people—trading stamps.

Since trading stamps enjoyed their biggest popularity in the '50's and '60's, the companies reason that customers will associate the stamps in their minds with the lower prices of yesteryear. And, since there has been such a clamor in recent years about electric rates, the companies figure people won't have anything to complain about if they can redeem their stamps for valuable gifts absolutely free.

Unimpeachable sources close to the State Utilities Commission report that the commission members are enthusiastic about the plan and are already drawing up tentative schedules to implement the plan.

Each customer would receive 100 trading stamps for every 1,000 kilowatt hours on his bill. There would also be selected special sale days, like Wednesdays, when the customer would get double stamps. When the customer had collected enough stamps, he would lick them into special books. When he had the required number of energy books, he could go to the redemption center and pick a lovely, free gift like a set of dishes or a crock.

Medical News

Scientists in the field of medicine are currently investigating a possible link between the energy crisis and an increased risk of Heavayeur-Couvverz syndrome, a temporarily paralyzing illness which strikes people of all ages in the night, or especially, early in the morning upon awakening.

The disease, which was named after a French blanket maker who first discovered it, follows the same symptoms in nearly every case. The victim awakens with almost total paralysis from the neck down and lies immobilized for long stretches of time, unable to raise himself. The victim often describes the sensation as "having a very heavy load resting on the body".

Not much is known about the cause yet but it seems to affect small children weighing less than 50 pounds in great numbers.

The scientists are currently working on a theory that the strange affliction may in some way be related to known habits of the victims, such as sleeping under four or five heavy wool blankets to keep warm.



Report To The People

by Senator Robert Morgan

President Carter will have the people cheering for him when he tries to make good on his campaign promise to bring the federal bureaucracy under control, but he will also have his hands full. Government agencies have grown so large and unmanageable that the need to streamline and reorganize them is probably the one thing in government that needs doing most.

One of the agencies that needs attention badly is the Civil Service Commission, which is about as hard for the average job hunter to understand as Chinese grammar.

The concept of Civil Service was no doubt a lofty one when it was created and introduced into government back in 1883. Its principal purpose was to keep capable federal employees from being fired when administrations changed and to insure a desirable applicant for a position that he would have tenure if he accepted a government job. The ideals were of the highest and the Pendleton Act, which created civil service, was regarded as a great step forward in putting government jobs into the hands of people who would do them well without fear of being discharged because of politics.

But contrary to its original intentions, Civil Service has now grown so complex that many people — qualified people — write me that they can get nowhere when they seek to become eligible for a government job.

Just recently, a letter from a constituent provided a good example of how difficult it can be to even get eligible for a federal position.

Having a Ph.D in Australian politics, he had gotten in touch with the State Department and was

encouraged by officials there to go to his local Job Information Center for the purpose of taking a Civil Service examination. He did this, but was told by the Civil Service that as he did not have experience, he should take lower examination than the Job Information people had recommended.

So he said all right, he would take the lower examination but then the Civil Service official said no, the roster was filled on that and they weren't giving that examination right then.

And now the thoroughly confused applicant doesn't know who to listen to or just when they will resume giving that lower test he was advised to take.

This would be ridiculous if it were an isolated case, but this is just one of many incidents of this sort that have been reported to my office.

There have been other instances in which a man who was listed on the Federal Register after having passed his examination didn't have his name submitted when a specialized job for which he was eligible became open.

Other evidence leads one to believe that there might be a "buddy system" operating so that someone sees that a friend is notified when a job is to be available.

Actions such as the ones mentioned above are very frustrating to a person who has the education and the skills to offer himself for government service and finds he cannot even get on the eligible list. So, when the Administration gets around to controlling the bureaucracy, I hope they won't overlook the Civil Service.

CLIFF BLUE ...

People & Issues



REP. ANDREWS...According to "Congressional Action," a bulletin published by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, Congressman Ike Andrews of the Fourth N.C. Congressional District was undercut by the Union lobby in Washington when committee assignments were being decided in the last days of January. Here is what "Congressional Action" had to say about the episode:

"If you've ever had any doubt about the Congressional clout of the unions, take a look at what happened to one moderate Democrat, and become a believer."

"Here's the story. In a caucus held on January 27, House Labor Committee Democrats reportedly voted to give the chairmanship of the Compensation, Health and Safety Subcommittee to Rep. Andrews (D-N.C.) considered to be a moderate."

Apparently, the union chieftains didn't like the selection of the only Committee Democrat to oppose the construction site picketing bill two years ago and got "the word" loud and clear to the Majority members of the Committee.

"Thereupon, the Committee Democrats assembled in caucus February 1 — just prior to the Committee's organizational meeting — and removed Rep. Andrews from his short-lived chairmanship."

"Who then got the nod that he was to fill the vacant chair? Why, Rep. Joseph Gaydos (D-Pa.), a 'lock step' labor supporter who displayed a 100% COPE rating in 1975 and has a cumulative rating of 93% over seven years in the House."

"Rep. Andrews sports a cumulative COPE rating of 34%, and a National Chamber rating in 1975 of 47%. And what about Rep. Gaydos? You guessed it, his Chamber rating for 1975 was a flat zero!"

"Obviously, the unions are wast-

ing no time cashing in their chips on the new Congress. If this is any indication of what business can expect for the next two years, it's really in a great deal of trouble."

"RECORDED VOTES...We have long found certain members of the General Assembly who are anxious to prevent the folks back home from knowing how they vote on certain bills in both committee and in the body as a whole. Considerable progress has been made toward open meetings and recorded votes of late since the electronic method has come into practice. However, the North Carolina Senate is still clinging to the "no record vote" in committees, although there is a possibility this may change during the current session. I have heard members say they would vote a certain way "provided it is not a roll call or recorded vote."

"UNREPRESENTED' COUNTIES...John Henry Moore of the Laurinburg Exchange calls attention to the fact that "31 of the state's 100 counties have no resident legislators among the 170 who sit in both houses." He calls attention to the fact that "County lines continue to play a tremendous part in the government of the state. The idea of district and sectional government hasn't caught on despite great efforts to sell this concept during the past decade or so...A result is for the people in these 'unrepresented' counties state government has become more remote than it ought to be."

"CONSERVING ENERGY...Editor Gene Smith of the Havelock Progress writes: "Governor Jim Hunt has made some sweeping changes in his short month, coming on strong in cabinet sessions, public appearances and his desire to conserve precious energy. He missed one of his best bets in conserving energy — and state funds — by not sending the General Assembly home last week and telling them to come back after April 1 when the weather is warmer. They aren't going to be doing that much in the next six-seven weeks anyway and between the savings of heating fuel for the building, daily expense allowances and the price of temporary secretaries the state could possibly show less of a deficit than is forecast for the end of the fiscal year."

But what Gene is suggesting the governor can't do. The governor can call a special session but he is without authority to send 'em home, which is no doubt what many governors would like to have done.

Browsing in the files of The News-Journal

25 years ago

Thursday, February 14, 1952

It was announced this week that a meeting would be held in the library at the High school at seven o'clock next Tuesday night, February 19, for the purpose of organizing a Raeford Junior Chamber of Commerce.

old resident of Shannon, Route 1, died Monday morning in a Fayetteville hospital.

At their February meeting the county commissioners voted to raise the pay of jury service in the county to \$5 a day in the future.

Office next to The Bank of Raeford any more. It can now be found in the new building next to the Town Hall on the west side of North Main Street.

From Poole's Medley:
 People do not walk enough now. They ride in automobiles too much, and the day is coming when they will ride less, and walk more. Wait and see.

15 years ago

Thursday, February 15, 1962

Sheriff Dave Hodgin ended weeks of speculation about his plans by announcing Tuesday evening that he would go to the well one more time.

A four way race for the office of Hoke Sheriff shaped up this week with announcements from Ralph

Plummer and Cliff Conoly, preceding by hours an announcement from former veteran incumbent Dave Hodgin added to last week's announcement from Charlie Proctor.

A native of Beaufort County, Dr. Harry H. McLean, will become associated with Dr. Riley M. Jordan in the practice of general medicine "around April 1."

Lucius Angus Biggs, 59 - year

Don't look for the Raeford Post